Diversion of PDS items

2773. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a nine point action plan for tackling diversion of PDS items;

(b) if so, whether all States/UTs have received the BPL/AAY lists, to eliminate ghost ration cards;

(c) if so, how many unauthorised/illegal ration cards are in use in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra;

(d) if not, the reasons for delay for revising the lists by the States;

(e) how many persons were found guilty in those States for diverting and leakages of the PDS items and whether penal action has been taken against them;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Based upon a feed back gathered by holding Five Regional Conferences of State/UT Food Secretaries followed by a National Conference of State Food Ministers and Secretaries held on 29-03-2006, a nine point action plan was prepared for implementation by all State/UT Governments. One of the points under the Action Plan is to undertake continuous review of BPL/AAY lists, to eliminate ghost ration cards. Some of the States/UTs have completed a campaign on this issue and others are continuing the exercise. During this, the respective State/UT Governments review the BPL and AAY ration cards to eliminate the bogus ones from among them. This is an ongoing continuous process.

(c) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that in the process of de-duplication at Mandal level about 8 lakh duplicate cards have been detected so far. After completion of field level enquiry, necessary action for elimination of the duplicates from the lists will be taken. The State Government of Maharashtra has reported that no unauthorized/illegal ration cards are in use in the State.

(d) Some of the States/UTs have taken up a campaign on this issue and others are continuing the exercise. During this, the respective State/ UT Governments review the BPL and AAY ration cards to eliminate the bogus ones from among them. This is an ongoing continuous process.

(e) to (g) During the year 2006, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has booked cases against FPS dealers in the State as under:—

Details	Year 2006
No. of Inspections	8204
No. of Raids	582
No. of cases detected under 6-A/Deptt.	936
No. of cases ended with prosecution	3
No. of cases ended with cancellation of authorization	82
No. of cases in which authorization suspended	285
No. of cases in which show cause notice issued	206
No. of person arrested/prosecuted and convicted	2

The State Government functionaries have seized goods worth Rs. 30.5 Lakh upto December, 2006.

The State Government of Maharashtra has arrested 133 persons for violation EC Act, 1955 and Rs. 52,83,228/- have been recovered as penalty during 2006.

Beneficiaries of forward trading in foodgrains

2774. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether forward trading in foodgrains and/or consumer goods has a recent origin, if so, the details in this regard;

(b) when such a practice was started and with what objectives;

(c) who are the beneficiaries from this practice and in what manner; and

(d) whether this practice has absolutely no bearing on the prices of foodgrains, if not, the details thereof?